



**AILYN PERÉZ REPLACES SUSANNA PHILLIPS
IN NEW CENTURY CHAMBER ORCHESTRA'S SEASON OPENING PERFORMANCES
SEPTEMBER 17-20, 2015**

San Francisco, CA - July 28, 2015 – Soprano Ailyn Peréz will step in for Susanna Phillips who has had to withdraw from New Century Chamber Orchestra's 2015-2016 season opening performances **September 17-20**. Ms. Peréz graciously agreed to travel to San Francisco between her performances in the role of Mimi in *La Bohème* at the Teatro alla Scala in Milan, and the world premiere of Jake Heggie and Terrance McNally's *Great Scott* at the Dallas Opera. The program showcases masterworks by Russian composers and will feature Ms. Peréz as soloist for Tchaikovsky's "Letter Scene" from *Eugene Onegin* and Rachmaninoff's *Vocalise*.



Highly sought after by the world's leading opera houses, Ailyn Peréz has been hailed as a "major soprano" (*The New York Times*) and an artist "who truly seems to have it all" (*Opera News*). As the first Hispanic winner in the 35-year history of the prestigious Richard Tucker Award, Ms. Perez went on to win the 15th annual Plácido Domingo Award in the same year. A firm favorite in the Bay Area, Ms. Perez is a graduate of both the San Francisco Opera's Merola program (2005) and Adler Fellowship. In her 2014 role as Violetta in the San Francisco Opera production of *La Traviata*, Joshua Kosman of the *San Francisco Chronicle* said "Her singing was full-bodied and rich in color, with long-breathed phrases sumptuously sustained and an emotional depth to everything she undertook" and praised her as "the evening's brightest luminary." Ms. Perez recently made her Metropolitan Opera debut in February 2015 in a highly successful performance as Micaëla in Bizet's *Carmen* and looks forward to upcoming appearances with Teatro alla Scala, Dallas Opera, Houston Grand Opera before returning again to the Metropolitan Opera.

New Century Chamber Orchestra and Music Director Nadja Salerno-Sonnenberg recently announced the 2015-2016 season including four subscription weeks in venues across the Bay Area. The ensemble's 24th season, Nadja's eighth as music director, includes a World Premiere commission by Pulitzer prize-winning Featured Composer Jennifer Higdon, British violinist Daniel Hope as Guest Concertmaster leading a program of works in tribute to his mentor Yehudi Menuhin, a debut solo appearance by internationally acclaimed klezmer clarinetist David Krakauer and a repeat collaboration with the San Francisco Girls Chorus. The season repertoire encompasses a broad range of masterworks from the string ensemble repertoire including a program of works by Russian masters Tchaikovsky, Rachmaninoff and Shostakovich, an entire program of dance works by Strauss, Stravinsky and Khachaturian, contemporary works by Pärt, Takemitsu, Glass and Bechara El-Koury in addition to Christmas and Hanukah holiday favorites.

NEW CENTURY CHAMBER ORCHESTRA 2015-2016 SEASON CALENDAR

**Letters from Russia
September 17-20, 2015**

Open Rehearsal: Wednesday, September 16, 10 a.m., Kanbar Performing Arts Center, San Francisco

Thursday, September 17, 8 p.m., First Congregational Church, Berkeley

Friday, September 18, 8 p.m., First United Methodist Church, Palo Alto

Saturday, September 19, 8 p.m., San Francisco Conservatory of Music

Sunday, September 20, 5pm, Osher Marin JCC, San Rafael

Tchaikovsky: “Letter Scene” from *Eugene Onegin*

Shostakovich: Elegy and Polka

Rachmaninoff: *Vocalise*

Pärt: *Trisagion*

Jennifer Higdon: *Strings* from Concerto for Orchestra

Jennifer Higdon: *String Lake* from All Things Majestic

Jennifer Higdon: *To the Point*

Holiday Lights

December 17-20, 2015

Open Rehearsal: Wednesday, December 16, 10am, Kanbar Performing Arts Center, San Francisco

Thursday, December 17, 8 p.m., First Congregational Church, Berkeley

Friday, December 18, 8 p.m., First United Methodist Church, Palo Alto

Saturday, December 19, 8 p.m., Herbst Theatre, San Francisco

Sunday, December 20, 5 p.m., Osher Marin JCC, San Rafael

Program to include Bach’s *Sheep May Safely Graze* and *Jesu, Joy of Man’s Desiring* in addition to a variety of Christmas and Hanukah holiday favorites, to be announced at a later date.

Hope for Menuhin

February 4-7, 2016

Open Rehearsal: Wednesday, February 3, 10 a.m., Kanbar Performing Arts Center, San Francisco

Thursday, February 4, 8 p.m., First Congregational Church, Berkeley

Friday, February 5, 8 p.m., First United Methodist Church, Palo Alto

Saturday, February 6, 8 p.m., Herbst Theatre, San Francisco

Sunday, February 7, 5 p.m., Osher Marin JCC, San Rafael

J. S. Bach: Concerto in D Minor for 2 Violins, Strings and Basso Continuo, BWV 1043

Pärt: “*Darf ich...*” Solo violin, Tubular Bells and Strings

Philip Glass: “*Echorus*” for 2 Violins and Strings

Mendelssohn: Concerto in D minor for Violin and Strings

Vivaldi: Concerto in A minor for 2 Violins, RV 522

El-Khoury: *Unfinished Journey* – in memorium Yehudi Menuhin

Takemitsu: *Nostalgia* for Solo Violin and Strings

Bartók: Six Romanian Folk Dances

Delight in Dancing

May 5-8, 2016

Open Rehearsal: May 4, 10 a.m., Kanbar Performing Arts Center, San Francisco

Thursday, May 5, 8 p.m., First Congregational Church, Berkeley

Friday, May 6, 8 p.m., First United Methodist Church, Palo Alto
Saturday, May 7, 8 p.m., Herbst Theatre, San Francisco
Sunday, May 8, 5 p.m., Osher Marin JCC, San Rafael

Stravinsky: *Apollon musagète*

Jennifer Higdon: World Premiere Commission

Strauss: *Dance of the Seven Veils* from *Salome*

Khachaturian: *Sabre Dance*

ABOUT NEW CENTURY CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

The New Century Chamber Orchestra, one of only a handful of conductorless ensembles in the world, was founded in 1992 by cellist Miriam Perkoff and violist Wieslaw Pogorzelski. The 19-member string ensemble, including San Francisco Bay Area musicians and those who travel from across the U.S. and Europe to perform together, makes musical decisions collaboratively. World-renowned violin soloist, chamber musician and recording artist Nadja Salerno-Sonnenberg leads from the concertmaster chair. She joined the ensemble as music director and concertmaster in January 2008, bringing to New Century “a new sense of vitality and determination, as well as an audacious swagger that is an unmistakable fingerprint of its leader,” according to *Gramophone* magazine. This season marks her seventh with the orchestra and continues an illustrious line of concertmasters including Stuart Canin (1992-1999) and Krista Bennion Feeney (1999-2006).

In addition to performing classic pieces of chamber orchestra repertoire and commissioning new work, New Century breathes new life into rarely heard jewels of the past and performs world premieres. Salerno-Sonnenberg and New Century have made three successful national tours together. The 2011 performances in the Midwest, East Coast, and Southern California garnered record-breaking audiences and national critical acclaim. In January and February 2013, New Century followed with a highly successful eight-state national tour, the largest and most ambitious artistic undertaking in the organization’s history. In addition to touring efforts, New Century’s national footprint has also continued to grow with a rapidly increasing national radio presence.

The orchestra has released seven compact discs, the most recent its *From A to Z: 21st Century Concertos*. The orchestra’s first concert DVD, *On Our Way: Nadja Salerno-Sonnenberg and the New Century Chamber Orchestra*, released in May 2012, weaves together documentary footage and concert footage from a February 2011 performance at the Broad Stage in Santa Monica.

For more information on New Century, please visit <http://www.ncco.org>.

PHOTO CREDITS

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